

Art Unit: 1796

The claim 1 terminology “radiation-chemically modified” and “plasma-chemically modified” was discussed. Examiner Berman noted that there is no definition of "radiation-chemically modified" or "plasma-chemically modified" in the specification. Mr. Turk argued that the terminology refers to the disclosed chemical modification of PTFE powder by radiation or plasma treatment discussed in the specification and is known in the art. See page 4, line 9-20.

The phrase “including a surface” was discussed. Examiner Berman suggested “including a particle surface”, as set forth in the specification at page 5, line 19.

The term “reactants” in claim 5 was discussed. Examiner Berman suggested reciting the kinds of reactants employed to chemically modify the PTFE powder surface to distinguish from the reactants employed to provide the polymers radically coupled to the PTFE powder particle surface. Applicant discloses reactants such as oxygen or air to provide peroxy or alkoxy groups or carboxyl groups and $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_3$ to provide sulfonic acid groups on the PTFE (pages 1-2 and 4, lines 9-10). The olefinically unsaturated monomers are reactants disclosed for providing polymers radically coupled to the particle powder surface after chemical modification.

Examiner Berman suggested that the claims might be written in product by process form to clarify how the product is obtained and to possibly distinguish over some of the prior art of record. It is further suggested that applicant might include in claim 1 the kinds of polymers coupled on the powder particle surface. See claim 7.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Susan W. Berman/ whose telephone number is 571 272 1067.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

Art Unit: 1796

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571 272 1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SB
11/25/2009

/Susan W Berman/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1796